

Editorial

IPRM: 14 years old this month

The Indium Phosphide & Related Materials (IPRM) Conference returns to Europe in May to celebrate its 14th anniversary.

The conference is only one year younger than this magazine so the pair have in many respects grown up together. Indeed, one of the prizes which will be presented during the Conference Banquet (at the Vasa Museum in Stockholm) will be the Mike Lunn Memorial Award. Given for 'Outstanding Contributions to InP', the award has had some illustrious recipients over the years, and as one of the 'unsung heroes' Mike himself would have been well satisfied with this recognition of individual achievement.

The meeting retains much of its original coverage but in keeping with the evolution of InP, has expanded and diversified. It is now a 4-day event with papers, posters, discussions, courses and exhibitions attracting hundreds of delegates from all over the world.

Themes for this year match the trends in the industry. While some will be reminiscing of better times for the fibre and wireless sectors, most will be eager to get back to business. A look at the conference program shows where InP is headed. The twin themes of opto- and micro-electronics are still the strong suits of what was once reckoned to be one of the more problematic semiconductors.

Interest in InP has never been higher as shown by the number of papers at IPRM XIV: long wavelength emitters based on InGaAsN alloys, nanostructured materials, 200+ GHz HEMTs and HBTs, 40 Gbit/s transceivers, InGaAs HBTs, in-situ monitoring, optoelectronic integration, high-speed photonics, LDS, VGF, and much more.

Not surprisingly European contributions figure fairly prominently. There are oral contributions from the host nation, for example, HEMT cryogenic wideband LNAs from the Chalmers University of Technology; Linköping University's collaboration with the University of California on quantum dots as a tool to monitor charge, Sweden's Royal Institute of Technology will report on selective area heteroepitaxy.

Other highlights will be Dwight Streitz's plenary talk, his IPRM debut as Velocium's CEO. To counterpoint the great expectations of this first truly merchant InP device company, we have IQE's Tom Hierl reminding us of the potential for GaAs on Si as debuted by Motorola a few months ago.

Clearly these and developments such as metamorphic growth of In-based alloys on GaAs show that the InP sector is no less interesting today as it was fourteen years ago when the very first IPRM convened in Colorado. Full details of the conference can be found on pages 50-51.

Roy Szweda, Associate Editor

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